

Message Text

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NASA-01 NEA-10 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01 DOE-15
CEQ-01 OES-07 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00
INRE-00 NRC-05 DOEE-00 /148 W
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O 181701Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0588
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
DIA WASHDC
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MOSCOW 08049

PASS USDEL SECRETARY

GENEVA ALSO FOR USSALTTWO

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, UR, US, SALT
SUBJECT: SOVIET REVIEW OF DISARMAMENT ON EVE OF VISIT BY
SECRETARY VANCE

SUMMARY: SOVIET COMMENTARY ON DISARMAMENT MATTERS ON EVE
OF ARRIVAL OF SECRETARY VANCE REITERATES MOSCOW'S POSITIONS
ON MAJOR ISSUES AND MAINTAINS THE SENSE OF URGENCY EVIDENT
IN RECENT SOVIET STATEMENTS. FRONT PAGE PRAVDA SUMMARY OF
INTERVIEW GIVEN TO NEW YORK TIMES BY SECRETARY OF STATE'S
ADVISOR ON SOVIET AFFAIRS MARSHALL SHULMAN HIGHLIGHTS
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STATEMENT THAT SALT NEGOTIATIONS DURING SECRETARY'S VISIT
WILL BE DIFFICULT. END SUMMARY.

1. LENGTHY ARTICLE IN IZVESTIA OF APRIL 17 BY V. MATVEYEV
AND K. PEREBOSHCHIKOV FROM GENEVA ENTITLED "TIME DOES NOT
WAIT" REVIEWS MAJOR DISARMAMENT ISSUES FROM PERSPECTIVE OF
NEED FOR DECISIVE ACTION. IN THE ORDER OF THEIR DISCUSSION,

THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ARTICLE ARE:

-- SSOD: AUTHORS EMPHASIZE THAT SSOD IS A PREPARATORY SESSION TO A WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE AND SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED A SUBSTITUTE FOR OTHER EXISTING DISARMAMENT FORUMS;

-- CCD: AUTHORS WARN AGAINST PROPOSALS WHICH, THEY SAY, WOULD WEAKEN EFFECTIVENESS OF CCD, WHOSE WORK HAS RECENTLY ENTERED A MORE ACTIVE PHASE;

-- NEUTRON WEAPON: THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION IS TREATED AS AN EFFORT TO CREATE A "FALSE SENSE OF CALM, TO WEAKEN THE WAVE OF PROTESTS" AGAINST THE WEAPON. THE AUTHORS REJECT LINKAGE OF THE FINAL DECISION ON THE NEUTRON WEAPON WITH SOVIET RESTRAINT ON OTHER WEAPONS BY STATING THAT "IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO MIX TWO DIFFERENT THINGS: ALREADY EXISTING WEAPONS AND THOSE NOT YET IN PRODUCTION." THE AUTHORS URGE THE BANNING OF NEUTRON WEAPONS;

-- RADIOLOGICAL WEAPONS: REAL PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN THESE TALKS AND AGREEMENT COULD HAVE BEEN REACHED IF THE U.S. HAD NOT INSISTED ON "OBVIOUSLY UNACCEPTABLE CONDITIONS" OF VERIFICATION;

-- CTB: THE AUTHORS REPORT THAT AN "INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE
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OF SEISMIC DATA WILL PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE" IN MONITORING THE FULFILLMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN. THE U.S., HOWEVER, IS TAKING "AN INFLEXIBLE AND UNREALISTIC POSITION" ON PNE'S, AS IT AND THE UK IS ON THE QUESTION OF VERIFICATION;

-- SALT: SALT HAS "KEY IMPORTANCE" IN DISARMAMENT MATTERS. THE AUTHORS CLAIM THAT THE U.S. IS STRESSING SECONDARY MATTERS TO THE DETRIMENT OF MATTERS OF PRIMARY IMPORTANCE. THE AUTHORS STATE THAT THE FORTHCOMING VISIT OF SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE WILL BE VERY IMPORTANT AND THAT "THE NEAR FUTURE WILL SHOW" THE DIRECTION WHICH NEGOTIATIONS WILL TAKE;

OTHER MATTERS: SECRETARY VANCE IS QUOTED AS STATING THAT NEGOTIATIONS WILL OPEN ON ASAT AND THAT "AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS" ON CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS WILL CONTINUE. THE AUTHORS ASSERT THAT "DIFFICULTIES OF AN ARTIFICIAL CHARACTER" HAVE PLAGUED OTHER NEGOTIATIONS AND CITE AS AN EXAMPLE TALKS ON CHEMICAL WEAPONS.

2. IN OTHER COMMENTARY, THE SOVIET CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE

NEUTRON WEAPON CONTINUES. KOSYGIN'S DINNER SPEECH FOR GUYANA'S PREMIER BURNHAM ON APRIL 17 STRESSED SOVIET DETERMINATION TO PURSUE DISARMAMENT MEASURES AND SIGNED OUT SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR MUTUAL RENUNCIATION OF PRODUCTION OF NEUTRON WEAPONS. THIS IS CONSISTENT WITH WEEKEND PRESS TREATMENT OF THE WEAPON WHICH CONTINUES TO PRESS FOR MUTUAL RENUNCIATION AND TO REJECT LINKAGE WITH OTHER WEAPONS SYSTEMS.

3. OF SPECIAL NOTE IS PAGE ONE PUBLICATION IN PRAVDA ON APRIL 18 OF TASS ACCOUNT OF INTERVIEW GIVEN THE NEW YORK TIMES BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S SPECIAL ADVISOR ON SOVIET AFFAIRS MARSHALL SHULMAN WHO IS QUOTED AS STATING THAT THE USSR WANTS A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION TO SALT-II. SHULMAN IS CONFIDENTIAL

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THEN QUOTED AS WARNING THAT THE QUESTIONS ARE SO COMPLEX THAT "THE NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE VERY DIFFICULT." TASS CONCLUDES BY QUOTING SHULMAN THAT IF THE TALKS ARE NOT SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDED SOON BOTH SIDES WILL PROBABLY DEVELOP NEW WEAPONS SYSTEMS AND THAT THIS WILL CREATE NEW PROBLEMS FOR FUTURE EFFORTS TO STABILIZE THE STRATEGIC BALANCE.

4. COMMENT: WE HAVE NOT SEEN THE FULL TEXT OF THE SHULMAN INTERVIEW, BUT THE SOVIET SELECTION OF QUOTATIONS IS CLEARLY INTENDED TO CONVEY TO THE SOVIET READERS A SENSE OF THE PROBLEMS MOSCOW FEELS FACE THE TWO SIDES DURING THE VISIT OF SECRETARY VANCE: EXPECTATIONS, THEREFORE, ARE NOT TO BE TOO HIGH. A PERSISTENT SOVIET THEME OF RECENT MONTHS HAS BEEN THE NEED FOR HASTE IN ARMS CONTROL MATTERS AND ESPECIALLY IN SALT, AND THE ITEMS CITED ABOVE ARE INTENDED TO ADD TO THE PRESSURE ON THE U.S. ON CONFIDENTIAL

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THE EVE OF THE VISIT OF SECRETARY VANCE. TOON

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Message Attributes

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